

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Adhesive and sealant ~~systems based on any of~~ composition comprising a member selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, silane-terminated polymers, silicones, unsaturated polyester resins, vinyl ester resins, acrylates, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl ether, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, polyvinyl acetates, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, styrene-butadiene rubber, chloroprene rubber, nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, polysulfide, polyethylene, polypropylene, fluorinated hydrocarbons, polyamides, saturated polyesters and copolyesters, phenol-formaldehyde resins, cresol-/resorcinol-formaldehyde resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyimides, polybenzimidazoles, and polysulfones, ~~characterised in that they contain~~ containing 1 wt.% to 15 wt.% of a compacted hydrophobic, pyrogenic silica, wherein the silica has been compacted by a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt and as a result of said silica being compacted in such way said adhesive and sealant ~~systems are~~ composition is rendered thixotropic and the time required for incorporating said compacted hydrophobic pyrogenic silica into said adhesive and sealant ~~systems~~ composition is reduced compared to the time required for incorporation into said ~~systems~~ composition of silica that has not been compacted with a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt.
2. (Currently Amended) The adhesive ~~and/or~~ and sealant ~~system~~ composition according to claim 1 wherein the silica displays a compacted bulk density of 60 g/l to 200 g/l.
3. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the time needed to incorporate compacted hydrophobic silicas into adhesives and sealants sealant compositions in order to render them thixotropic comprising incorporating a compacted hydrophobic silica in the amount

of 1 wt% to 15 wt% into a member selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, silane-terminated polymers, silicones, unsaturated polyester resins, vinyl ester resins, acrylates, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl ether, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, polyvinyl acetates, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, styrene-butadiene rubber, chloroprene rubber, nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, polysulfide, polyethylene, polypropylene, fluorinated hydrocarbons, polyamides, saturated polyesters and copolyesters, phenol-formaldehyde resins, cresol-/resorcinol-formaldehyde resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyimides, polybenzimidazoles, and polysulfones; wherein the compacted hydrophobic silica has a compacted bulk density of 60 g/l to 200 g/l, and wherein the silica has been compacted by a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt and as a result of said silica being compacted in such way said adhesive and sealant ~~systems~~ compositions are rendered thixotropic and the time required for incorporating said compacted hydrophobic pyrogenic silica into said adhesive and sealant ~~systems~~ compositions is reduced compared to the time required for incorporation into such ~~systems~~ compositions of silica that has not been compacted with a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt.

4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein the time needed to prepare the thixotropic adhesives and sealants is shorter than would be with the time required to prepare thixotropic adhesives and sealants using compacted hydrophobic silica having a compacted bulk density of 50 g/l.